

### § 5 • *The Resurrection of Osiris*

In the foregoing account of the festival, drawn from the The res-great inscription of Denderah, the burial of Osiris figures QsS<sup>"</sup> prominently, while his resurrection is implied rather than represented. This defect of the document, however, is amply compensated by a remarkable series of bas-reliefs which accompany and illustrate the inscription. These exhibit in a series of scenes the dead god lying swathed as a mummy on his bier, then gradually raising himself up higher and higher, until at last he has entirely quitted the bier and is seen erect between the guardian wings of the faithful Isis, who stands behind him, while a male figure holds up before his eyes the *crux ansata*, the Egyptian symbol of life.<sup>1</sup> The resurrection of the god could hardly be portrayed more graphically. Even more instructive, however, is another representation of the same event in a chamber dedicated to Osiris in the great temple of Isis at Philae. Here we see the dead body of Osiris with stalks of corn springing from it, while a priest waters the stalks from a pitcher which he holds in his hand. The accompanying inscription sets forth that "this is the form of him whom one may not name, Osiris of the mysteries, who ~~jspiigs f&om AQ~~ returning waters."<sup>2</sup> Taken together, the picture and the words seem to leave no doubt that Osiris was here conceived and represented as a personification of the corn which springs from

A. Marietta-Pacha, *Denderah*) pp. 336  
*Mytho-*  
*sq.*; R. V. Lanzone, *op. cit.* p. 744. <sup>2</sup> H. Brugsch, *Religion mid  
 Marietta supposed that after depositing logie der alien Aegypter,  
 Mitologia the new image in the sepulchre they V. Lanzone, *Dizionario di  
 Egizia*, plate cclxi. ; A. Wiedemann,*

carried out the old one of the preceding  
*Le M-uscton*,  
year, thus setting forth the resurrection  
A. Wallis  
as well as the death of the god. But  
*the Egyptian*  
this view is apparently not shared by  
According to Prof.  
Brugsch and Lanzone. Wiedemann, the corn springing  
from  
<sup>1</sup>A. Marietta - Bey, *Denderah*, iv. the god's body is barley.  
Similarly in a papyrus of the Louvre  
(Paris, 1873} plates 65, 66, 68, 69, 70,  
(No. 3377)  
71, 72, 88, 89, 90; R. V. Lanzone, Osiris is represented  
swathed as a mummy and lying on his  
*Dizionario di Mitologia Egizia*, pp. stalks of corn sprout from  
back, while  
757 "fth pJates cclviii.-ccxcii. ; his body.  
E. A. Wallis Budge, *The Gods of the See R. V. Lanzone, op.*  
*Egyptians*, ii. 131-138; *id.*, *Osiris sq.*, with plate ccciii.  
2; A. Wiedemann,  
*and the Egyptian Resurrection*, ii. mann,  
"L'Osiris vegetant,"*LeMuseon*,  
31 sqq. N.S. iv. (1903) P- II2-